

Appendix A

Basic Organizational Structure of the Army

Unit Symbols

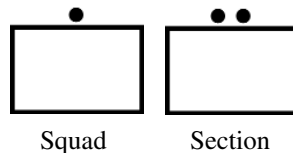
The Army uses a set of graphic boxes to depict its units in a quick and simple shorthand. Over each box is one or more dots, lines or “Xs” to indicate the size of the unit. Other symbols, not shown here, are placed inside the boxes to identify the types of units.

Crews and Fire Teams

- ★ Although there is no symbol for them, in combat units (other than infantry) built around armored vehicles, field artillery or air defense artillery units, the smallest organizational units are the crews that operate the vehicles and weapon systems.
- ★ In the infantry, the smallest organizational units are fire teams, usually four or five men.

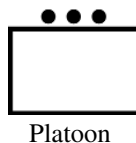
Squad/Section

- ★ Squad and section leaders are noncommissioned officers (NCOs)—usually sergeants or staff sergeants.
- ★ The size is dependent on the function of the squad/section.
- ★ Squads/sections make up platoons.



Platoon

- ★ A platoon consists of two to four squads/sections.
- ★ The leader is usually a lieutenant. A staff sergeant or sergeant first class is second in command.

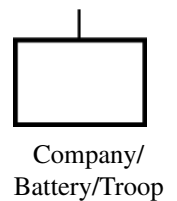


- ★ The size will vary depending on the type of platoon.

- ★ Platoons make up companies.

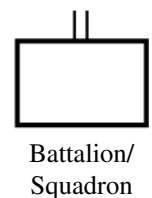
Company/Battery/Troop

- ★ Typically, three to five platoons form a company, battery or troop.
- ★ The size varies depending on the type of unit.
- ★ A company is normally commanded by a captain. A first sergeant is the company commander's principal noncommissioned assistant.
- ★ A company is capable of receiving and controlling additional combat and combat support elements.
- ★ An artillery unit of equivalent size is called a battery.
- ★ An armored or air cavalry unit of equivalent size is called a troop.
- ★ A company is a cohesive component that can perform a function on its own.
- ★ The company is the basic tactical element of the battalion.



Battalion/Squadron

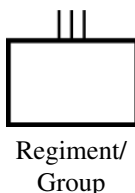
- ★ A battalion is composed of four to six companies.
- ★ A battalion is normally commanded by a lieutenant colonel. The command sergeant major is the battalion commander's principal noncommissioned assistant.



- ★ The commander has a staff to assist him in supervising and planning the battalion's operations, training, administration and logistics functions.
- ★ A battalion is tactically and administratively self-sufficient.
- ★ A battalion is capable of independent operations of limited duration and scope.
- ★ In performance of particular missions, battalions are capable of accepting the attachment of companies of different types to form battalion-size task forces.
- ★ There are combat, combat support and combat service support battalions.
- ★ An armored or air cavalry unit of equivalent size is called a squadron.
- ★ Battalions/squadrons make up brigades/regiments.

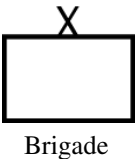
Regiment/Group

- ★ Regiments and groups are usually commanded by colonels.
- ★ Special Operations groups and regiments (Special Forces, Rangers, Psychological Operations) administer, support and train their subelements, but rarely operate as tactical entities.
- ★ Armored cavalry regiments are large combined-arms organizations that primarily provide reconnaissance and screening capabilities for a corps. Except that their maneuver troops are consecutively lettered, they are very similar to separate brigades.



Brigades

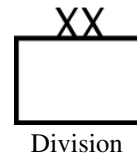
- ★ Brigade headquarters control the tactical operations of two to five combat battalions and a number of separate companies.
- ★ A divisional brigade is normally commanded by a colonel. The command sergeant major is the senior noncommissioned officer.



- ★ Separate brigades may be commanded by colonels or brigadier generals, depending on the type.
- ★ When appropriately augmented, brigades may be employed on independent or semi-independent operations.
- ★ Combat, combat support and combat service support elements may be attached to perform specific missions.
- ★ Each divisional maneuver brigade is supported by a field artillery battalion and a forward support battalion which belong to division artillery (DIVARTY) and the division support command (DISCOM). Separate maneuver brigades often have such units organic to them.
- ★ There are normally three maneuver brigades in a division.

Divisions

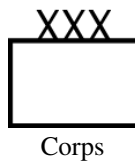
- ★ Divisions are numbered and assigned missions based on their respective structures. They may be infantry; airborne; air assault; light or mechanized infantry; or armored.
- ★ Divisions are combined-arms organizations that typically include:
 - Division headquarters for command and control
 - Subordinate maneuver brigade headquarters
 - Infantry and (usually) armor battalions
 - Field artillery
 - Engineers
 - Air defense artillery
 - Aviation
 - Military police
 - Military intelligence
 - Nuclear-biological-chemical defense
 - Signal



- Division support command (provides supply, transportation, field maintenance, medical and administrative services)
- ★ The division performs major tactical operations for the corps or joint task force and can conduct sustained battles and engagements. A division is normally commanded by a major general.
- ★ Two or more divisions constitute a corps.

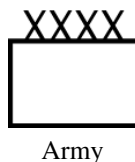
Corps

- ★ A corps is the deployable level of command required to synchronize and sustain combat operations.
- ★ The corps staff elements perform analyses of national intelligence assets information.
- ★ The corps provides a framework for multinational operations.
- ★ The corps is commanded by a lieutenant general.
- ★ The corps provides command, control and logistical support of two to five combat divisions.
- ★ The corps is the primary command and control headquarters for the conduct of the air-land battle within the theater of operations.
- ★ Two or more corps form an army.



Army

- ★ A theater army is normally the Army component command in a unified command. Third U.S. Army (U.S. Central Command), Eighth U.S. Army (Korea) and U.S. Army Europe are current examples of theater



armies. The theater army has both operational and support responsibilities. Its exact tasks are assigned by the theater commander and may be operational missions, logistic tasks, or a combination of both.

- ★ A field army may be formed by theater army commanders in coordination with the commanders of unified commands to control and direct the operations of assigned corps. It will normally be constituted from existing army assets and structured to meet specific operational requirements. In joint and combined operations, subordinate units of field armies may include units of other services or of allied forces. When the field army is the largest land formation in a theater of war, its commander may serve as the land component commander (LCC) and may design and direct the land campaign for the entire theater.
- ★ Although termed “armies,” Continental U.S. Armies are not field organizations and do not have a tactical or operational role. Their nevertheless important functions are listed under “FORSCOM” in appendix D.

Army Group

- ★ In a mature theater of war where a large number of forces are employed, theater army commanders, in coordination with the commanders in chief of unified or combined commands, may form army groups to control the operations of two to five field armies. Their main function would be to design and direct campaigns in a theater.

